

Summary of the Community Advisory Work Group Meeting

April 23, 2024, 5 pm – 7 pm

Reynolds Desalination Facility

Topic: Increasing Outreach for Water Conservation Rebates

Presentation: General Information on Community Advisory Work Group (CAWG), Meeting Agenda (Principal Public Affairs Representative Gwyneth Shoecraft)

Presentation: Increasing Outreach for Water Conservation Rebates (Gwyneth Shoecraft) ([Presentation PDF](#))

- Current Authority-funded rebates: leak repair, pressure reducing valve, car wash, Living Coast Discovery Center
- Regional rebates available to Authority customers:
 - Metropolitan Water District (MWD) SoCalWaterSmart plumbing rebates: premium high efficiency toilets, high efficiency clothes washer, leak detectors
 - MWD SoCalWaterSmart landscaping rebates: turf replacement program, rotating sprinkler nozzles, weather-based irrigation controllers, rain barrels, cisterns, soil moisture sensor system
 - County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program, available for residents, businesses and agriculture producers in unincorporated areas: edgescaping, rain-friendly pavement, potential additional funding for turn replacement
- Mention of 2024 WaterSmart Landscape contest
- Current outreach for rebate programs: mailed communications (e.g. customer newsletter, direct mail postcards), social media, community presentations and events, dedicated webpages

Discussion & Q&A (CAWG attendees, Sweetwater Authority representatives)

- Areas of discussion; recommendations and feedback provided:
 - Discussion of partnering with other industries and associations to promote high efficiency toilet rebates
 - Suggestions of partnering with Home Depot to indicate with a sticker or sign which models qualify for the MWD rebate
 - Questions as to which models qualify for the MWD rebate
 - Discussion of connecting with local plumbers, plumbing associations and plumbing stores to promote Authority leak repair rebate
 - Discussion of how plumbers could promote the rebate as a “discount” for their customers
 - Discussion of general outreach for Authority-funded rebates
 - Suggestion of communicating the rebate as a “special,” “limited time or availability”
 - Suggestion of customer testimonials or stories highlighting rebates
 - Discussion of additional potential rebates
 - Questions on leak-detecting devices, including one for hot water tanks
 - Questions on gray-water systems
 - Questions on tankless water heaters, questions on how these save water

Update on Floating Solar Project (Gwyneth Shoecraft)

- Update that a webpage has been created for the floating solar project at Sweetwater Reservoir (www.sweetwater.org/floatingsolar).
 - Webpage includes project information, status, links to relevant documents and a mailing list for project updates

What's on Your Mind? (CAWG attendees, Sweetwater Authority representatives)

- Question regarding PFAS and water quality testing
- Discussion of water quality, including reservoir dredging
- Suggestion for an explanation of how rates are calculated to be considered for a future meeting topic
- Question regarding floating solar project
 - Suggestion to look into energy storage as a component of the project
- Suggestion to get WiFi for facility for attendees to log on to their devices, discussion of Authority network security